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C O N F I D E N T I A L RANGOON 000248

SIPDIS

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TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PHUM](#) [BM](#) [NLD](#)

SUBJECT: BURMA'S NLD CONTINUES TO SHED ITS MEMBERS

REF: A. RANGOON 224

[B.](#) RANGOON 196

Classified By: COM Carmen Martinez for Reasons 1.4 (b,d)

¶1. (C) Summary: This week the National League for Democracy expelled three more members from its ranks. They are youthful party activists who appear to be tired of the "wait and see" mentality of the octogenarian leadership of the NLD's Central Executive Committee. The NLD leadership seems determined to prevent the GOB from deregistering it as an official political party. End Summary.

¶2. (SBU) On February 22, Burma's National League for Democracy party (NLD) expelled three members. Added to the 18 who were dismissed a week earlier (see Ref A), this brings to 21 the number of members dropped so far this year. The three latest expulsions were Kyaw Min, Myint Kyaw Oo, and Thurein, all of Rangoon Division. All three were part of a youth faction that distributed copies of the U.N. Human Rights Declaration on May 30, 2004 to commemorate the attack on ASSK's convoy a year earlier. Myint Kyaw Oo was arrested after that incident.

¶3. (C) The three appear to have been dismissed for being too active and for not being willing to accept the Central Executive Committee's (CEC) "wait and see" attitude. Sources say that younger members of the NLD are unable to discuss ideas directly with CEC members, but must communicate through intermediaries. The reason for the latest dismissals appears to differ from the dismissals last week. When poloff met two of those 18 dismissed members earlier this week, they surmised that they were expelled for supporting the idea of a "parallel government," but when they asked NLD Secretary U Lwin why they were being dismissed, he replied, "I'll explain it to you later."

¶4. (C) Comment: The NLD octogenarian leadership appears determined to shed the party of "trouble makers," particularly those whose ideas or activities might draw too much scrutiny of the party by the SPDC. The NLD wants to ensure that it remains one of the ten political parties that have not been deregistered by the GOB. End Comment.

Martinez